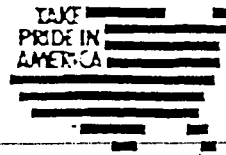




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT

Colorado State Office
730 Simms Street, Suite 290
Golden, CO 80401

000006273



Phone: (303) 231-5280

FAX (303) 231-5285

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWE/CO:ES:Plants-Spiranthes diluvialis (Ute ladies'-tresses orchid)

November 23, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has established interim requirements and guidelines for surveys to determine the presence or absence of the federally threatened plant species Spiranthes diluvialis, Ute Ladies'-tresses orchid. These guidelines were developed by the Service in consultation with biologists and ecologists knowledgeable about the species in order to gain more information about the species, identify potential habitat, and streamline and standardize survey procedures.

Spiranthes diluvialis occurs in seasonally moist soils and wet meadows near springs, lakes, or perennial streams and their associated flood plains below 6,500 feet elevation in certain areas in Utah, Colorado, and Nevada. Typical sites include old stream channels and alluvial terraces, subirrigated meadows, and other sites where the soil is saturated to within 18" of the surface at least temporarily during the spring or summer growing seasons.

The moist soil conditions and vegetation composition of known Spiranthes sites suggest that wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act qualify as potential Spiranthes habitat. Therefore, delineated wetlands, as well as other drier sites matching the description above, should be surveyed if they occur in specified areas in Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

Surveys are required for appropriate sites below 6,500 feet elevation in the following areas in Colorado:

- a. Boulder and Jefferson Counties;
- b. The South Platte River 100 year floodplain and perennial tributaries from the Front Range as far east as Brush, Morgan County;
- c. The Fountain Creek 100 year floodplain and perennial tributaries from the Front Range to the southern boundary of El Paso County;
- d. The Yampa River 100 year floodplain and its perennial tributaries from Steamboat Springs west to the Utah border.

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ADMIN RECORD

A-SW-001244

Documentation of compliance with survey requirements and recommendations is accomplished through submission to the Service of a survey report. The Service will respond with a letter indicating acceptance of the report.


Copies of the interim requirements can be obtained by contacting the Service at one of the following locations:

Bernardo Garza
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
730 Simms St., Room 290
Golden, CO 80401
(303) 231-5280

Lucy Jordan
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
529 25 1/2 Road, Suite B-113
Grand Junction, CO 81505
(303) 243-2778

The Service recommends that this letter of notification be copied and distributed to anyone planning a project in areas that meet the description of potential Spiranthes habitat as described above.

Sincerely,


LeRoy W. Carlson
Colorado State Supervisor